

## **Charles B. Dorris, Deputy Constable**

On Wednesday, July 18, 1888, Constable Charles B. Dorris, of Summersville was shot and killed while transporting a prisoner to jail. On the afternoon of the murder, Dorris was trying to break up a disturbance and was escorting a person outside a crowd on direction from the Justice of Peace. This person, Peter Renfrow, pulled his gun and fired shooting Dorris in the head. Defendant Renfrow later claimed he was not aiming at Dorris but thought another man was going to shoot him. Defendant Renfrow was tried and sentenced but killed a guard and escaped jail. He was captured a few years later. Renfrow's case later was appealed to the Supreme Court of Missouri. His conviction was upheld.

As a deputy constable for the City of Summersville Charles B. Dorris made the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting the citizens of the Summersville community.

## **James Farris, Deputy Constable**

On June 24, 1909 Constable James Farris, of Cabool, was shot and killed by Mrs. Fannie Gregory, wife of Cal Gregory. As a deputy constable for the City of Cabool James Farris made the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting the citizens of the Cabool community.

## **Harry S. Kelly, Sheriff**

It was a late Tuesday evening in 1931, Nov. 29, around 9 o'clock, when the car in which Texas County Sheriff Harry S. Kelly was riding hit a crumbled edge of road near Raymondville. The car rolled three times into a drainage ditch. Sheriff Kelly had been working long hours since taking time off to sit with his ailing father, Tom Kelly. After his father's death on Thanksgiving

Day, Sheriff Kelly was making up for lost time by serving papers into the night. His brother-in-law, Clinton Chittim of Springfield was with him. The two men crawled out of the wreckage and found Chittim was unhurt. Sheriff Kelly's shirt sleeve was torn, his arm streaked with dirt. The small, bloody scratch underneath did not seem serious. However, the wound did not heal. Within a few days, red streaks appeared as did Kelly's fear of infection. He went to Dr. Herron who initially dressed the wound and asked that he clean it again.

It was too late. Septic germs, silent killers in the days before antibiotics, claimed many victims with small beginnings. December 7, one week after the accident, Kelly's arm was swollen and painful. Dr. Herron knew Kelly needed to be hospitalized in Springfield. Funeral director and ambulance driver, Gaylord Elliott volunteered to get him there in three hours, an amazingly short amount of time to navigate the dirt road to Springfield that wound its way through hundreds of right angle curves and hills.

Harry's wife, Bessie, followed with their two children, nine-year-old Harry S. Kelly II and seven-year-old Kathleen. Sheriff Kelly was slipping fast. At the hospital, young Harry and Kathleen waited in the hall. Children were not allowed in the rooms. Kathleen stood on her tiptoes and peered through the crack of a door. She could see her father in bed. It was her last glimpse of him when he was alive.

Sheriff Harry S. Kelly died Dec. 9, 1931 from injuries sustained in a car accident while carrying out his duties. He was 41 years old.

He was recalled by those who knew him for his steady even temper, and that nothing seemed to make him lose his cool. Sheriff during the days of Prohibition, it was said there was always grass in the rims of Harry Kelly's tires from chasing moon shiners.

Harry Kelly served as Texas County Sheriff from 1921-24 and then 1928-31.

## **Kelly L. Poynter, State Trooper**

Trooper Kelly L. Poynter was a husband, father, son and friend who loved and lived life to the fullest.

Kelly was born December 25, 1974, in Lebanon, Missouri, son of Clifford and Kathy (Woodard) Poynter. He was married to Alison (Bowman) Poynter and had two sons, Kaleb and Nathan.

Kelly fulfilled a lifelong dream when he joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol on July 1, 1996. Upon graduating from the patrol academy he was assigned to Troop G, Zone 4, Carter and Reynolds counties. His badge number was 1191. He transferred to Zone 2, Texas County, on February 1, 1999.

Kelly loved to hunt and fish. He enjoyed taking his boat on the river with family and friends, gigging and Kelly enjoyed watching NASCAR racing. He was an avid Dale Earnhardt Sr. fan. Kelly was a caring, honest and personable man who enjoyed being around others. He had a distinct laugh that was known by those who knew him as the "Kelly Poynter laugh". He enjoyed sharing – and always embellishing – stories with his friends.

On January 18, 2002, Kelly was working a traffic accident on U.S. 63 two miles south of Houston, Missouri, when he was struck and killed by a vehicle. The driver was charged and convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

Trooper Poynter was the 22<sup>nd</sup> member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to make the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting the citizens of Missouri.

## Kevin Floyd, State Trooper

On September 22, 2005, Trooper Kevin Floyd, badge #394, was working speed enforcement on U.S. Highway 60 in Texas County, approximately one mile east of MM highway at 12:21 p.m. Trooper Floyd had made a routine traffic stop when he was struck by an eastbound pickup truck. He was airlifted by Hammons Lifeline to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, where he succumbed to his injuries at 1:33 p.m.

The driver of the vehicle which struck Trooper Floyd, pled guilty to a Class D felony of second-degree manslaughter. A two-year prison sentence was suspended and he was sentenced to four years probation, 200 hours of community service, fined \$5,000.00 and a public service announcement on the "move over law".

Trooper Floyd was the 27<sup>th</sup> member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to make the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting the citizens of Missouri. He was the fourth member of the Patrol to die in the line of duty in 2005 alone.

Kevin Floyd was born September 25, 1959 in Houston, Missouri. He was the oldest son of Donald and Darlena (Wilson) Floyd Young. He graduated from Licking High School in Licking, Missouri, in 1977. Trooper Floyd was appointed to the Patrol August 1, 1986. Trooper Floyd was married to Cheryl (Trentham) Floyd and they had two children, Jacob Kevin Floyd and Telena DeShea Floyd. They were just teenagers when this tragedy occurred.

Kevin loved his family and took great pride in their endeavors and accomplishments. Family, friends and coworkers all enjoyed being around him. Kevin was the type of person that just made you feel better. He was easy to talk to and

a wonderful conversationalist. He loved to tell stories that made people laugh even if he did have to embellish just a little.

Kevin enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time on the river. He spent many nights introducing friends to the almost lost art of "gigging". Not only did he teach them to gig, he also showed them how to clean fish, cook fish and eat fish.



## Texas County, Missouri

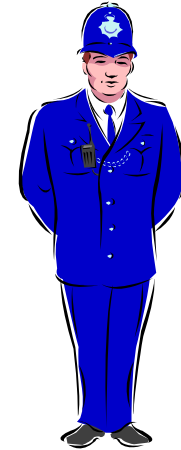
*Established February 14, 1845*

## 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project

### Dedication

**October 16, 2010**

# Texas County Law Enforcement Memorial



**"The Ultimate Sacrifice**

**Killed in the Line of Duty"**

*Constable Charles B. Dorris - 1888*

*Constable James Farris - 1909*

*Sheriff Harry S. Kelly - 1932*

*Trooper Kelly L. Poynter - 2002*

*Trooper Kevin Floyd - 2005*

## Texas County Missouri

### “The County Without A Courthouse”

Like many counties during their early years as a unit of local government the county courthouse buildings were destroyed by fire or natural disasters. The most recent county to lose their courthouse by fire was Mississippi County. Texas County has had five courthouses since its establishment on February 14, 1845. In 2010, Texas County is probably the only county in the state that does not have a courthouse. No, this has not been caused by fire or a natural disaster. In fact, it was with careful planning. In 2005, the county undertook a major capital improvement project to build a new Justice Center with a new county jail. This was brought about by an intensive campaign by all elected officials in the county and the formation of a citizens group to be the forefront of the project. It was decided to place two questions on the ballot. One of the half-cent sales tax proposed would pay for the capital improvement project over a twenty year period. A second half-cent sales tax was proposed to pay for the maintenance and operations of the new facilities. The citizens group raised money for the campaign, by advertising the need for a larger, modern, safe and secure facility. This group acted as a “go-between” with the public. A power point presentation was developed showing the crowded conditions and the inadequate space at the courthouse. Leaflets were made explaining the proposals; and county officials and concerned citizens canvassed the county for weeks seeking voter support. The citizens group, county officials and county employees did a superior job in the presentation because the two issues placed on the 2005 November Special Election ballot were passed in every voting district.

After months of planning and construction, the new justice center and county

jail opened in November, 2008. The project came in under-budget which gave great relief to the county’s budget officer and commissioners. The offices of Circuit Clerk, Associate Circuit Court, Sheriff, Jail, Coroner, Prosecuting Attorney, Juvenile Office and Public Administrator were moved from the old courthouse and annex building to the new modern facility. The county now has three large courtrooms and private secured office space for the county judges and for visiting judges that hear cases in Texas County.

The construction of the present courthouse in 1929 was destroyed by fire which was the county’s fourth courthouse building. After much delay a new facility was completed in 1932. It was a magnificent structure then, a very simple rectangular building measuring 60’ x 80’ with a full basement, main level and a second story level. With population increases, mission changes, increased responsibilities and cultural changes the once adequate structure became obsolete, overcrowded and in need of extensive exterior repairs.

Once the new justice center and county jail were completed the next logical step was to make the old courthouse a modern facility for the administrative units of county government. The project was a top to bottom remodel. The exterior received needed tuck pointing and new energy windows were installed. The interior was taken back to the original ten to twelve inch thick concrete walls. New heating, cooling, electrical and communication lines and systems were installed. All this was done while the administrative offices did their best serving the public. When the large stones were removed during the tuck pointing project, many cracked which caused the contractor to worry about as to how he was going to replace the stone that spelled out in bold letters “Texas County Courthouse”. This was not a concern to the County Clerk and he suggested to the County Commission that the old stones not be repaired

or replaced since no court would be held at this building in the future. After much discussion it was agreed that the stones would not be replaced and the building would become the Administrative Center for county government and a yard sign would be designed and constructed to distinguish what the building was being used for. In 2010, the newly remodeled facility was completed and currently the offices of the County Clerk, Elections, County Commission, Recorder of Deeds, County Assessor, County Collector-Treasurer have a fully remodeled modern facility to serve the public. The state driver’s examiners and veteran’s representative also use this facility. Part of the old jail was made into a multi-purpose meeting room. The interior areas that once housed the sheriff’s department and county jail have been gutted. A new roof and overlay of concrete floors have been completed. Future plans are to complete the remodel of the old sheriff’s department and old jail to allow other county agencies that serve the citizens of Texas County to relocate to this area of the Administrative Center.

So the next time you visit Texas County, Missouri and you need to find the county courthouse, don’t ask because we do not have one. We do have a Justice Center and an Administrative Center to serve our citizens and the visiting public.

We would love to have you come visit our new facilities and would be glad to discuss our capital improvement projects.

#### **Texas County Justice Center**

519 North Grand Avenue, Houston, Mo.

#### **Texas County Administrative Center**

210 North Grand Avenue, Houston, Mo.

## TEXAS COUNTY

Organized February 14, 1845, from Shannon and Wright Counties and named for the Republic of Texas. Originally defined by the Legislature as Ashley County on February 17, 1843, the name was changed to Texas upon organization. Appointed by the governor, early court commissioners [judges] convened at the home of David Lynch on the banks of Big Piney River. In June 1845 they selected forty acres for the county seat and later added an adjoining 40 acres. A year later, Houston was chosen as the name of the county seat. Twice Houston was destroyed during the Civil War, and, according to Goodspeed's History of 1889, when peace came there was not a single inhabitant. In November 1865 a temporary courthouse was built on the northeast corner of the public square costing \$361.96. On April 7, 1932, builders finished the new brick and stone, 95-by-70-foot courthouse, which continues in use today as the county's Administrative Center. In November 2005 voters approved two ½ cent sales tax issues to build a new Justice Center and County Jail along with remodeling the old courthouse. These capital improvement projects were completed in 2010 which is the 165th anniversary of Texas County, Missouri. Only one other county in the United States is called Texas County and it is located in the middle of the panhandle of Oklahoma. The first county seal was designed by Brenda (Benson) Shetler. A re-designed county seal was later approved and designed by Ann Montgomery. The county flag was designed by County Clerk, Donald R. (Don) Troutman as part of the county's sesquicentennial celebration held in 1995. The flag represents the county unit of government it's four county political sub-divisions, ten school districts, four municipal governments, two villages and seventeen townships.

## ENGLAND

The settler of Mid-America that moved westward after the American Revolution had learned the process of frontier settlement and the techniques of farming developed by the early

English colonies. Even more important, the American form of government that was to rule Mid-America echoed the ideas of Englishman John Locke. The British were also instrumental in establishing a world market for tobacco and cotton, thus enabling the new country to trade for goods it could not yet produce.

## SPAIN

In 1768, Spanish soldiers erected a block house fort on the north side at the mouth of the Mississippi. On November 23, 1769, an Oath of Allegiance to Spain was taken by 70 St. Louisans. Here, under Emanuel Hesse, they defeated an attack by a British and Indian force in May 1780. This was the westernmost battle of the American Revolution. Later, when St. Louis became a trading center, goods from the Spanish Southwest were part of a regular trade pattern.

## FRANCE

St. Genevieve, one of the earliest French settlements, remains richly steeped in French folklore. Similarly, St. Louis was on founded February 15, 1764 by Pierre Laclede Liquest, and is bountifully blessed with names reminiscent of French influence. These and other settlements west of the Mississippi became U.S. territory in 1803 when the Louisiana Purchase was made for \$15 million.

## ILLINOIS

A section of the upper Louisiana country came to be called Illinois after the Illini confederation of Indians was founded there by the French. The 1763 Treaty of Paris gave Great Britain domain over the Illinois country. In 1765, Captain Thomas Sterling, in the name of the British government, took possession of the Illinois territory. In 1812, Illinois had entered its second territorial stage with the election of a legislature and a population of 13,000. Admitted to the Union in 1818, Illinois contributed one of her sons, Abraham Lincoln to the task of restoring a nation.

## Seven Flags Over

## Texas County, Missouri



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

When the American flag flew over Mid-America for the first time, it was a young and growing country. What was once the far west boundary is now the very middle of our nation. As the heartland became the “Gateway to the West”, Texas Annexation, California gold, and the Oregon country became the new frontiers. The Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, founded by the early fur traders, carried the settlers westward. The Mid-America of earlier days was rapidly changing. Agriculture was expanding, industry was beginning, and before long, railroads and steamboats began a new era. The American flag is symbolic of the greatest influence on our country. It symbolizes the American spirit – the great moving force that destined us to greatness by the beliefs and works of a people.

## MISSOURI

St. Genevieve, St. Louis, and other early Missouri settlements were built along the Mississippi. With the push westward, the Missouri River bottom was rapidly populated. The immigration brought men of commerce from the East, farmers from the Ohio and Cumberland Valleys, and plantation interest from the South, thus creating a Mid-American melting pot. The tremendous fur trading activities of early St. Louis had provided trails westward. Missouri gained statehood on August 10, 1821.

# Glenwood Orchard

2010

## Donors Directory

**Theresa Campbell**  
Public Administrator

**Tammy Cantrell**  
Collector-Treasurer

**John Casey**  
Associate Commissioner – District #1

**Bradford Ellsworth**  
Associate Circuit Judge – Retired

**Linda L. Garrett**  
Associate Commissioner – District #2

**Doug D. Gaston**  
Associate Circuit Judge

**Debbie James**  
Assessor

**Mary Sheffield**  
Presiding Circuit Judge

**Tracy L. Storie**  
Circuit Judge

**Don Shelhammer**  
Presiding Commissioner

**Donald R. Troutman**  
County Clerk

**Carl D. Watson**  
Sheriff

**Joe B. Whetstine**  
Associate Commissioner – Retired

**Thomas Whittaker**  
Coroner

# Historical Information

## History of the Leavitt's – Christie's – White's Families

Hugh Christie was the original Christie that migrated here from Scotland in 1863 and settled in Licking, Missouri. On July 17, 1863, Hugh married Christina Kennedy, from Kinlock Rammlock in Perthshire Scotland. Hugh Christie was a carpenter who later settled in Steelville where Duncan Haldane Christie was born in 1871. The Leavitt and the White families were the origin of the farm. The White family had migrated here after the Civil War and put together some parcels to makeup the farm. Hugh Christie was employed by Guilford and Julia Leavitt to build a home in Houston, Missouri what was later to be known as the Christie house on Grand Avenue. Guilford Leavitt had also employed Hugh Christie to build a livery stable and the barn which was noted to be the best and finest barn in the state at the time all put together with wooden pegs. All of the outbuildings including the chicken house and even the privy was constructed with similar fashion and painted to match.

In 1906 Duncan Haldane Christie married Amelia Leavitt, the daughter of Guilford and Julia Leavitt who were residing in the Houston house on Grand Avenue. The Leavitts helped tremendously in establishing Texas County. Guilford Leavitt had founded the **Glenwood Stock Farm** and introduced the first purebred shorthorn cattle in the Midwest in the 1880's. The lineage of these cattle is still noted today in some of these registries. The Leavitt side of the family had moved to Houston, Missouri in 1865 and had founded the Leavitt's Department Store. Duncan and Amelia Christie had two sons, Carl Guilford and William Leavitt (Bill) Christie. Bill married Cynthia Mable Funk and lived on the Leavitt home farm, from which

they operated the Christie Dairy until 1966, when the last Christie son Dan graduated from Houston High School and went off to college. Bill began raising beef cattle after closing the dairy. Bill and his wife, Cynthia, had three children Art Leavitt, Mary Katheryn, and Danny Duncan Christie. Art has retired from the US Air Force obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mary Kathryn was a teacher of French and English in the Santa Fe Reorganized School District. Dan graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in forestry. He is currently the president of Metropolitan Forestry Services, Inc. located in Ballwin, Missouri. A portion of the old farm was sold to Texas County where the new county justice center and county jail has been built. Bill Christie passed away at the age of 93 in 2007. The Glenwood farm has operated as a beef farm, dairy, fish rearing farm, honey farm.

With the establishment of the "Glenwood Orchard" in 2010 during the county's 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary by the county government it is the hope that future generations will remember this property for its agriculture related activities and heritage. The new orchard was made possible and started by the generous donations of twelve of the county elected officials. The orchard will be used as a training facility by the local extension office to educated county residents on the proper ways to maintain a profitable fruit orchard. County jail trustees will help in the maintenance, watering and collection of fruit at the orchard. At its establishment peach, apple and cherry trees have been planted. Additional types of fruit and hardwood trees may be planted in the future. The orchard's fruit will be used to feed county inmates and surplus produce will be frozen and/or canned to be used during the winter.

# Time Capsule Project

## Items Deposited Into Time Capsule Administrative Departments

Capsule Colors – Dark Red and Grey  
In Memory and Honor for those Texas County  
men and women that served the  
Confederate States of America (Confederacy)  
during the American Civil War (1861 – 1865)  
“The War Between the States”

American Civil War – Overview – 30 pages  
Assessor's Office – Letterhead, Business Card,  
Envelope, Assessment Form, Business Assessment List  
Assessor's Office – Property Index & Appraisal Cards  
Bible – King James Version  
Budget – 2010 County Budget  
Calendar – 2010  
Campaign Material & Handouts  
2006 Building Project 2006 Grand Dedication Invitation  
2006 Judicial & Jail Dedication Pictures  
Newspaper Special Edition – January 2009  
Collector-Treasurer's Office – Paid Tax Card  
Business Card, Tax Bill - Real & Personal  
Constitution – United States  
2010 Assessed Valuation Totals  
Card, County Officials 1845 – 1992  
County Clerk's Office – Liquor License  
County Road Inventory Report  
Dictionary – Webster's New World  
Directory – County Officials  
Election Judges & Voting District Locations  
2010 April Election, 2010 August Election  
Flag – Texas County & Description  
Lead Pencil #2  
Local Sales Tax Rate Card – 5.725% & 7.350%  
Map – State of Missouri  
Map – Texas County & Shannon County  
Map – Texas County & Wright County  
Map – Texas County Current  
Map – Texas County Historical Map – 1930  
MDC – Discover Outdoor Missouri – Map  
DOR - Drivers Guide & Motorcycle Operator Manual  
Money/Coins – \$.25 [George Washington] - \$.10  
[Franklin D. Roosevelt] - \$.05 [Thomas Jefferson] \$.01  
[Abe Lincoln]  
Money/Coins – \$1.00 [Susan B. Anthony] - \$1.00  
[Millard Fillmore] - \$.50 [John F. Kennedy]  
Money – Paper – \$20.00 [Andrew Jackson] - \$10.00  
[Alexander Hamilton] \*  
Money – Paper – \$5.00 [Abraham Lincoln] - \$2.00  
[Thomas Jefferson] - \$1.00 [George Washington]  
Music – Missouri Waltz \*  
Music – The Star-Spangled Banner  
NACO – County News – Volume 42, No. 16 - Sep 2010

NACO – Free Prescription Discount Card  
Penny Saver Shoppers Guide – 09-08-2010  
Phone Book – 2010  
Photos – Historical Past – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Plat Book – 2008  
Real, Personal & Railroad-Utility Tax Rates  
Recorder of Deeds Office – Marriage License  
Seven Flags over Texas County - History  
Stamps – United States – 20 Forever Stamps – Current  
Rate .44 Cents 1<sup>st</sup> Class Postage  
Map of Missouri Counties 114 + City of St. Louis  
Texas County – History  
Texas County – Justice Center – Building Rules  
Texas County – Overview & Populated Places  
Genealogical & Historical Society Vol. #26  
Genealogical & Historical Society – Vol. #27 – No. 2  
Texas County Seal #1 & #2  
The CBA Newspaper – Volume XX – September 2010  
United States – Map 1790 – 1800  
United States Census Bureau – Missouri Counties

## Items Deposited Into Time Capsule Executive Department

Pending

## Items Deposited Into Time Capsule Judicial Departments

Pending

# Glenwood Orchard

519 North Grand Avenue  
Houston, Missouri 65483



Texas County Missouri  
165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects  
October 2010

# Time Capsule Project

Three time capsules are located inside the  
brick memorial located south of the Law  
Enforcement Memorial in front of the Texas  
County Justice Center. Capsules are to be  
opened in the year 2110.

